

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 012666

70
ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

66617
DRAFTED BY: AF/N:DLMACK
APPROVED BY: S/S-O:PPSARROS
----- 027287

R 192011Z JAN 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T STATE 012666

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT TUNIS 0061 ACTION SECSTATE JAN. 7,

QUOTE

S E C R E T TUNIS 0061

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TS MO
SUBJECT: MASMOUDI VOICES HIS CONCERN ABOUT PRESIDENT
BOURGUIBA'S VIEW THAT MASMOUDI PERSONA NON
GRATA IN WASHINGTON

REF: TUNIS 41 AND TUNIS 53

1. SUMMARY: DURING ONE AND ONE HALF HOUR MEETING WITH
FONMIN MASMOUDI JAN 4 AT HIS HOME HE BROUGHT UP FACT
THAT PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA HAS BEEN TELLING HIM AND OTHERS
THAT MASMOUDI IS PERSONA NON GRATA IN WASHINGTON; THUS
HE CANNOT GO WITH HIM ON VISIT TO U.S. I REITERATED
WHAT I HAD TOLD MASMOUDI'S CHIEF OF CABINET EARLIER
SAME DAY (REPORTED REFTEL) TO EFFECT THAT THIS IS NON-
SENSE. MASMOUDI SEEMED TO ACCEPT THIS. HE SAID
SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 012666

NORMALLY HE WOULD HAVE PAID NO HEED TO REPORT BUT IN
PRESIDENT'S CURRENT STATE OF MIND (TUNIS 53) HE AFRAID
PRESIDENT LAKES IT SEJIOUESLY--SAFD IS OFFARING IT AS
REASON MASMOUDI CANNOT GO WITH HIM TO U.S. I OFFERED

TO TAKE THIS UP WITH BOURGUIBA AT MY NEXT MEETING BUT
MASMOUDI SAID HE DOUBTED THIS WOULD MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE
IN BOURGUIBA'S ATTITUDE. IF MASMOUDI STORY IS ACCURATE
AND IT APPEARS TO BE, BOURGUIBA APPARENTLY MAY WELL
HAVE FINALLY DECIDED TO REMOVE MASMOUDI BEFORE HIS U.S.
TRIP. HE MAY EITHER BELIEVE MASMOUDI AS FON MIN IS
LIABILITY ON THIS TRIP OR THAT THIS OFFERS HIM EXCUSE
HE HAS BEEN LOOKING FOR TO REPLACE MASMOUDI. WE
BELIEVE IN EITHER CASE THAT MASMOUDI'S REMOVAL AT THIS
JUNCTURE MAY NOT BE A WISE MOVE, AS I SUGGESTED IN REF-
TEL. END SUMMARY.

2. MASMOUDI IN COMMENTING ON DECLINE IN STATE OF
HEALTH OF PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA AND CONSEQUENCES THIS
MIGHT HAVE FOR TUNISIA'S RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES
(REPORTED TUNIS 53) BROUGHT UP REPORT WHICH HE SAID
PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA HAS RECEIVED FROM AMBASSADOR
EL GOULLI AND HABIB BOURGUIBA JR. THAT MASMOUDI IS
PERSONA NON GRATA AT THE WHITE HOUSE AND COULD NOT
ACCOMPANY BOURGUIBA TO U.S.

3. I RESTATED POINTS I HAD MADE TO HIS CHIEF OF
CABINET EARLIER IN DAY AS REPORTED REFTEL. MASMOUDI
ACCEPTED THESE AND SAID HE IN NO WAY EXPECTED THAT
REPORT WAS TRUE SINCE U.S. DOES NOT CONDUCT ITS FOREIGN
RELATIONS IN THIS MANNER. MASMOUDI SAID BOURGUIBA
NEVERTHELESS HAS BEEN TELLING PEOPLE, INCLUDING HIM,
THAT HE CAN'T TAKE MASMOUDI TO U.S. FOR THIS REASON.
HE, MASMOUDI, WILL NORMALLY PAY NO HEED TO SUCH A REPORT BUT IN
PRESIDENT'S CURENT STATE OF MIND HE
AFRAID PRESIDENT TAKES IT SERIOUSLY.

4. I EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA
ACTUALLY WAS LENDING CREDENCE TO SUCH A NONSENSICAL
REPORT AND OFFERED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH HIM THE
NEXT TIME WE MEET. MASMOUDI INDICATED HE DOUBTED THIS
WOULD SERVE ANY PURPOSE SINCE BOURGUIBA HAS MADE UP
SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 012666

HIS MIND ON THIS MATTER.

5. MASMOUDI SAID HE IS AWARE BOURGUIBA WOULD LIKE
BOURGUIBA JR. TO BECOME MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND HE DOES NOT HAVE AN UNLIMITED TENURE ON THIS JOB.
NEVERTHELESS, HE RESENTED THE ANTI-AMERICAN LABEL THAT
WAS BEING PUT ON HIM WHICH HE FEELS IS UNDESERVED.
HE KNOWS OF ONLY ONE ACTION WHICH HE WAS RESPONSIBLE
FOR WHICH WAS DISPLEASING TO THE U.S. AND THAT WAS THE
VOTE ON CHINA'S ADMISSION TO THE UN WHICH OCCURRED IN
VERY SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES. IN RETROSPECT HE FEELS
TUNISIA WAS CARRYING OUT A POLICY THAT SECRETARY
KISSINGER WAS ADVOCATING AT THE TIME AND STILL IS VIS-

A-VIS CHINA.

6. MASMOUDI DID NOT INDICATE IF HE THINKS BOURGUIBA REALLY BELIEVES THIS REPORT OR IF HE IS USING IT AS AN EXCUSE TO BRING BOURGUIBA JR. BACK INTO HIS OLD JOB. HE SAID AT THE TIME OF THE APPOINTMENT OF ABEELAZIZ HAMZAoui THERE WAS SPECULATION AND RUMORS THAT HAMZAoui HAD BEEN SELECTED BECAUSE HE WAS AMERICAN TRAINED, HAD AN AMERICAN WIFE AND WAS A FRIEND OF SECRETARY KISSINGER AND HIS ADVISORS. I SAID WE UNDERSTOOD HAMZAoui HAD NEVER MET KISSINGER UNTIL HIS VISIT HERE AND THERE WAS NO REASON TO THINK HAMZAoui WAS MORE ACCEPTABLE TO US THAN HE, MASMOUDI, WOULD BE. MASMOUDI SAID HE RECOGNIZED HAMZAoui IS A GOOD ADMINISTRATOR AND IT WAS GOOD TO HAVE SOMEONE TO RUN THE MINISTRY WHILE HE IS TRAVELING.

7. COMMENT: MASMOUDI OBVIOUSLY FEELS HIS DAYS AS FON MIN ARE NUMBERED AND THAT HIS BEING LABELED AS PERSONA NON GRATA IN WASHINGTON IS A KEY FACTOR IN PREPARING FOR HIS POSSIBLE REMOVAL. HE GAVE NO INDICATION THAT HE BELIEVES THE REPORT HIMSELF. HE MAY THINK IT IS ONLY A CONVENIENT WAY FOR BOURGUIBA TO JUSTIFY HIS REPLACEMENT BY BOURGUIBA JR. WHO IS WIDELY KNOWN TO BE VERY PRO-AMERICAN. REGARDLESS OF WHETHER BOURGUIBA BELIEVES THIS REPORT OR WHETHER HE IS USING IT AS A RATIONALIZATION FOR AN ACTION HE WAS ELECTED TO TAKE, MASMOUDI'S REMOVAL AT THIS JUNCTURE MAY NOT BE A WISE MOVE AS I SUGGESTED IN TUNIS 41.

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 012666

SEELYE

UNQUOTE RUSH

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 27 JUL 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLICIES, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, VISITS, CABINET MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE012666
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/N:DLMACK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750004-0950
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740175/abbrzbve.tel
Line Count: 146
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: TUNIS 41 AND TUNIS 53
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <30-Sep-2002 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MASMOUDI VOICES HIS CONCERN ABOUT PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S VIEW THAT
WASHINGTON
TAGS: PEPR, US, TS, MO, (MASMOUDI)
To: PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

MASMOUDI PERSONA NON GRATA IN